

By the Kyng and the Quene,



He kyng and Quenes most excellent Maiesties, vnderstandinge howe that dyuers naughty and insolent persons, haue nowe of late attempted to make quarelles, ryottes, and frapes, aswell in Churches and Churchyardes, contrary to the lawes and Statutes in that case prouyded, as in sundrye other places, Cities, Townes, and Marketes. And for that complishment of their noughty purposes & quarelles, haue caused swordes & Rapiers, to be made of a much greter length, then heretofore hath bene accustomed, or is decent to vse and were. And with the said wepons,

*Proclamation
for regulating
length & use of
Swords & Rapier
Bucklers &c*

do vse and weare gauntletttes, and vambraces, and bucklers with longe pykes in them, contrary to thauuncient vsage of this realme, and the lawes and statutes of the same. Whereby dyuers irreuerente and prophane behaupours in the sayd Churches and Churchyardes, and many tymes maymes, hurttes, manslaughteres and murders, haue ben of late commytted and done, and muche more is lyke to be, yf some remedye be not the soner prouyded in that behalfe.

Theyr hyghnesses myndyng to take away thocccasion of suche mischiefes, and disorders, doo streyghtlye charge and commaunde al and singuler theyr Justices of peace, mayres, sheryffes, baylyffes, constables, & other theyr maiesties ministers and officers, that all and singuler the sayd Lawe and statute, concernynge the fyghtynge and quarellynge in churches and churchyardes, be duly executed, and that from henceforth no person or persons, of what estate, or condition so euer he or they be, do vse or weare by nyghte or by daye, nor sell any sword or rapier aboute the length of a yerde and a halfe quarter in the blade at the most, nor any buckler, with more pykes therein then one, and the same not to be sharpe, or aboute .ii. ynches longe, or of a broder syde then hath ben most comunly vsed within this realme, nor vse or weare any gauntlet, or vambrace, nor any other weapon of defence, other then theyr comunon swordes, rapiers, daggers, and bucklers, accorrdinge to thauuncient vsage and custome of this theyr maiesties Realme, vpon payne of the losse of suche weapons so vsed or woorne, contrary to the tenour and effect of this proclamation, and to suffer imprisonment of his or theyr bodyes, and to make fyne at theyr maiesties wyll and pleasure.

And further theyr maiesties stryghtly charge & commaund all and singuler the sayd Justices of peace Mayres, sheryffes, baylyffes, constables, and other theyr maiesties offycers, and ministers, to see this theyr hyghness proclamation duly executed, and to commyt thoffenders therein to ward and pryson, there to remaine without baple or maynpryce, vntyll theyr maiesties pleasure shalbe further knownen in that behalf. And that they sayle not thus to do, as they tender theyr maiesties pleasure and commaundement, and wyll answer for the contrary at theyr vttermost perylles.

Geuen at our manour of Grenewyche, the .xvii. day of March.

God saue the kyng and the Quene.

Excusum Londini in xdibus Iohannis Carodi
Typographi Regie Maiestatis.

Com priuilegio ad imprimendum
solum.



ms 3 et 4 Phil. et. Harv.